

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the above amendments are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIXMARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) Material machining belt, especially a grinding or polishing belt, with a releasable shape-mated connection device on the end to form an endless belt, in which the shape-mated connection device is formed with a recess [(11)] with a closed edge on end [(5)] and a counterpiece [(13)] on the other end [(7)], characterized in that the recess [(11)] is designed as an elongated hole whose length [(21)] corresponds roughly to the width [(23)] of the material machining belt [(1)], and whose longitudinal axis [(25)] runs parallel to the long sides [(27)] of the material machining belt [(1)], in that the elongated hole has a first and a second region [(29,31)], in which the expansion [(37),] in the transverse direction of the material machining belt [(1)], of the first region [(29)] is greater than the expansion [(35)] of the second region [(31)], and in that the first region [(29)] faces the end of the belt and the second region [(31)] faces away from the end of the belt.
2. (Amended) Material machining belt according to Claim 1, characterized in that the first region [(29)] is essentially round.
3. (Amended) Material machining belt according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that a surrounding region of elongated hole [(11)] and/or at least one counterpiece [(13)] is stiffened.
4. (Amended) Material machining belt according to Claim 1 [one of the preceding claims], characterized in that the surrounding region of at least one recess [(11)] and/or [the] at least one counterpiece [(13)] is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

5. (New) Material machining belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that a surrounding region of elongated hole and/or at least one counterpiece is stiffened.
6. (New) Material machining belt according to Claim 2, characterized in that the surrounding region of at least one recess and/or at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.
7. (New) Material machining belt according to Claim 3, characterized in that the surrounding region of at least one recess and/or at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.
8. (New) Material machining belt according to Claim 5, characterized in that the surrounding region of at least one recess and/or at least one counterpiece is coated with a hardening agent for stiffening.

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